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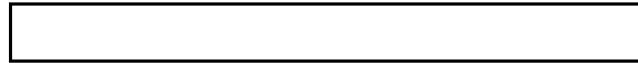


# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

JCS and State department  
review(s) completed.

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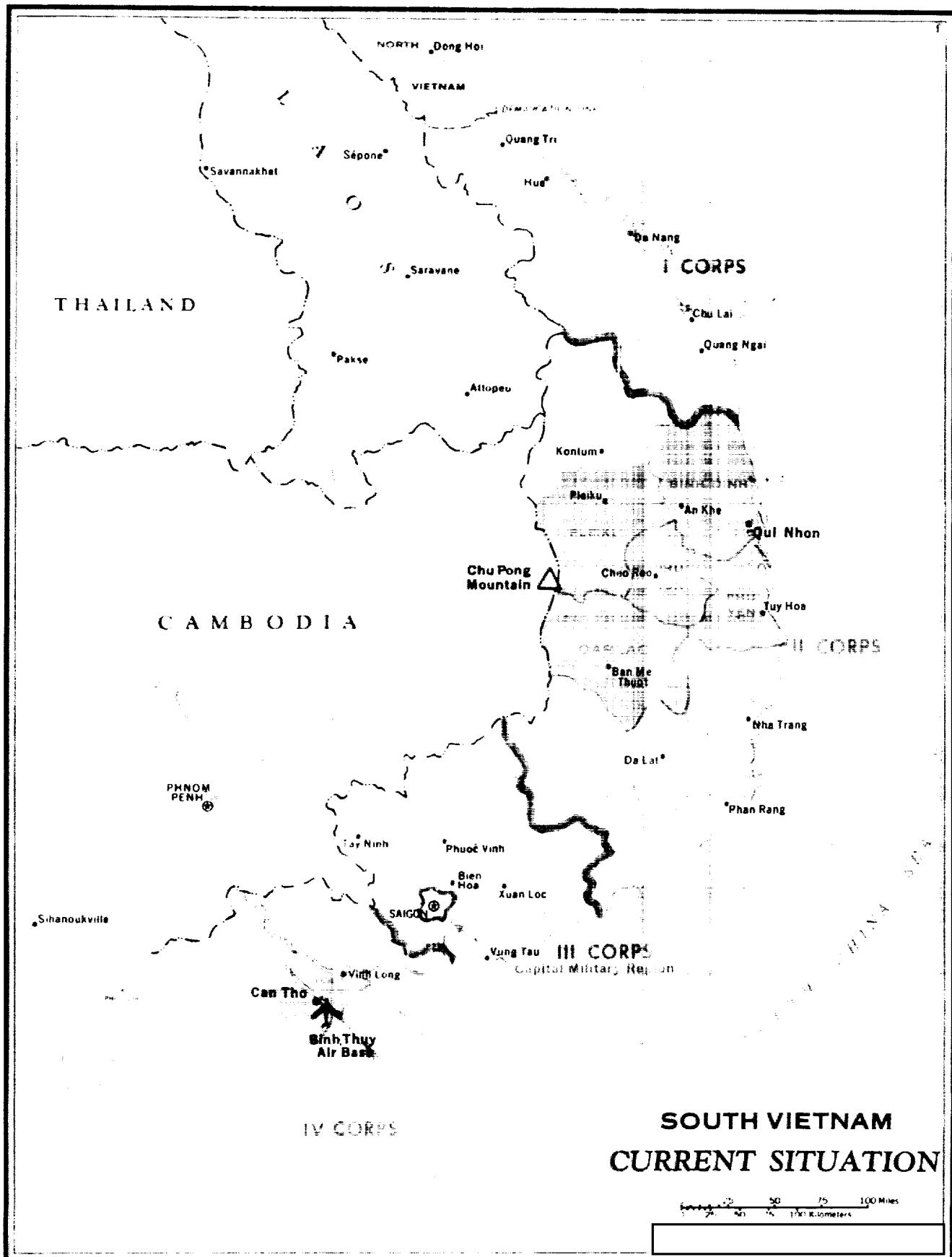
### \*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Continued postponement of the planned cabinet reshuffle may be another indication of friction within the military leadership.

[An adviser to Premier Ky stated yesterday that the announcement of the new cabinet alignment has been delayed a few days in order to work out details involving only a few ministries. It may be, however, that Deputy Premier Co--who was earlier reported to be questioning some appointments and who stands to lose considerable responsibility in the cabinet reorganization--is balking at the proposed transfer of several ministries presently under his control to a new supra ministry.]

General Thi, meanwhile, is scheduled to be interrogated by a specially appointed council of 20 generals on 9 July before a decision is made on his possible court martial. [Thi has thus far refused to supply written answers to a comprehensive and detailed series of questions concerning his role and that of others in the "struggle" movement.]

With respect to Buddhist/government affairs, moderate Buddhist Institute Chairman Tam Chau appears to be exploring the limits of the regime's announced policy of leniency toward "struggle" supporters. In three public letters issued to government officials on 5 July, Chau asked that he be permitted to visit all Buddhists under detention, that all "strugglers" be released and returned to their offices "except for a few individuals as stated by the Prime Minister," and that repressive measures against Buddhist "compatriots" in central Vietnam come to an end. Chau also informed the government that the Institute has not yet considered the matter of naming a representative for the newly-announced Civilian - Military Advisory Council.



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The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Two multibattalion South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) ground operations in the north-central coastal plain and in the Mekong Delta have inflicted heavy losses on the Communists.

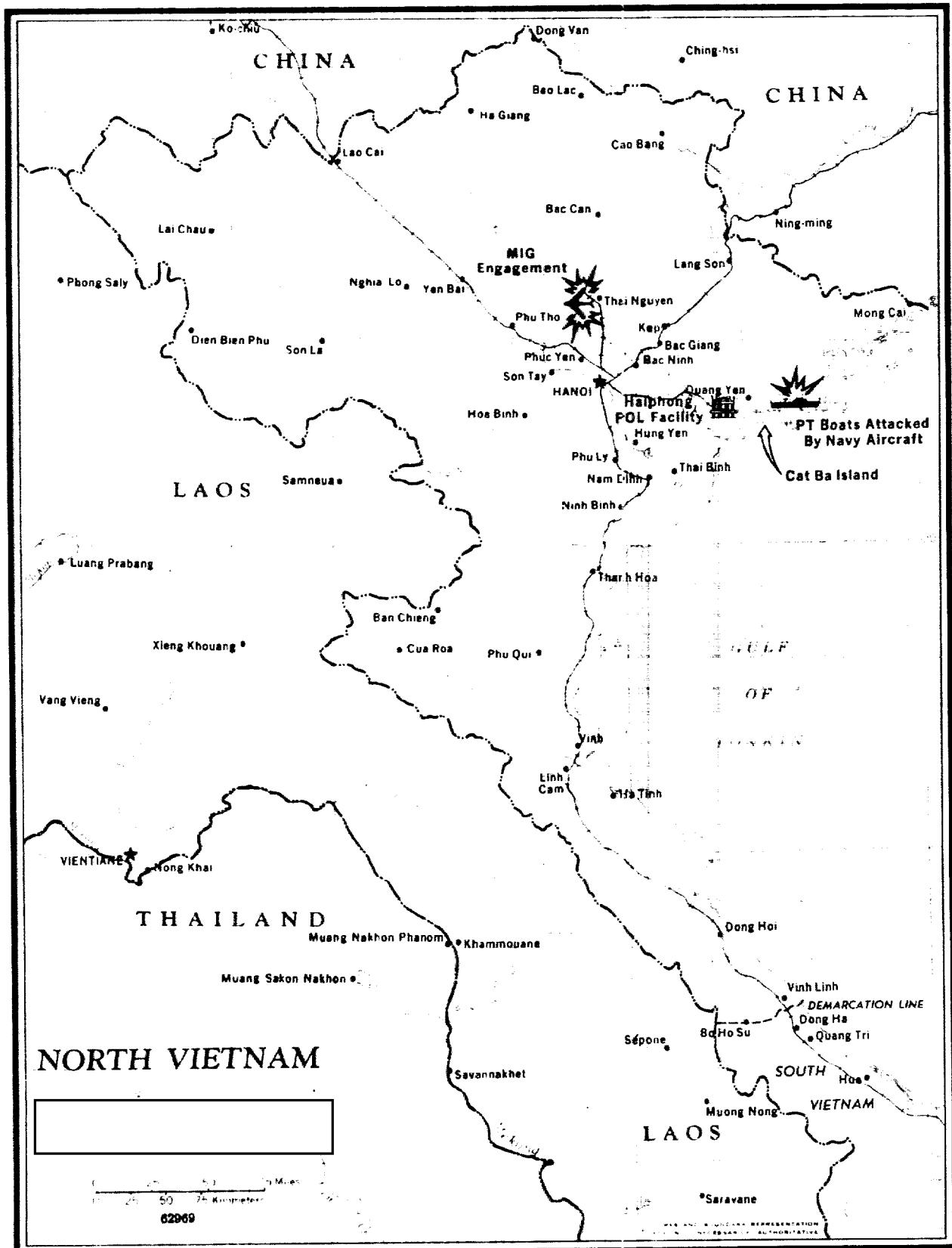
Two hundred and seventy-five miles northeast of Saigon, in coastal Binh Dinh Province, six ARVN battalions in a pursuit operation reacting to a Viet Cong attack of 6 July north of Qui Nhon have thus far killed 166 Communist troops. Fifty miles southwest of Saigon, units of the 9th ARVN Division reported 113 Viet Cong killed during a three-day search-and-destroy operation in Vinh Long Province.

Viet Cong military activity during the past 24 hours was highlighted by a mortar attack last night against Binh Thuy Air Base in Phong Dinh Province, southwest of Saigon. An estimated 40 rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire was directed against the recently completed USAF/VNAF jet air strip, resulting in five US casualties and three helicopters destroyed or damaged.

There are indications that major Communist units may be moving through the southern area of Pleiku and Darlac provinces en route to coastal Phu Yen Province. According to recent prisoner interrogation

a newly-infiltrated North Vietnamese Army (PAVN) regiment--the 49th of the 320th PAVN Division--recently deployed from the Chu Pong Mountain area eastward to join forces with the 18 "B" and 95th PAVN Regiments. They are to protect infiltration corridors and secure rice harvests in Phu Yen and Phu Bon provinces. The massing of three PAVN regiments in this strategic coastal area might comprise a division-size unit, which would be the sixth detected to date in South Vietnam.

Military Developments in North Vietnam: US pilots reported that North Vietnamese MIG-21 Fishbeds fired air-to-air missiles during a clash with two USAF F-105 Thunderchiefs about 30 miles north of Hanoi on 7 July. Neither US aircraft was hit. Although air-to-air



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missiles have reportedly been fired by North Vietnamese pilots on a previous occasion, their presence in the DRV air force has not yet been confirmed.

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US Navy A4E Skyhawks again struck the Haiphong POL storage facility on 7 July, causing multiple fires and secondary explosions which produced a smoke column estimated to be 20,000 feet high. One A4E was lost to ground fire but the pilot was recovered.

According to pilot reports, Navy aircraft also attacked four North Vietnamese patrol boats on 7 July, sinking two, beaching and burning the third, and heavily damaging the fourth.

Political Developments in North Vietnam: The official Czech news agency claimed in a dispatch from Hanoi on 7 July that the North Vietnamese may soon begin trials of captured US airmen and that death sentences will be demanded for some. The report stated that the trials will begin either on 20 July, the anniversary of the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam or on 4 August, the second anniversary of the Tonkin Gulf incident. The pilots will probably be tried before military tribunals in the provinces in which they were captured, according to the report.

There has, as yet, been no announcement from the North Vietnamese that trials will be held. In recent weeks, however, Hanoi has mounted an unprecedentedly vehement propaganda campaign against what it calls "criminal" US airmen. Specific threats have been made regarding both trials and demands for death penalties. The total number of US airmen held by the North Vietnamese is unknown but there are probably at least thirty-five.

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**\*Warsaw Pact - Vietnam:** The pledge "to allow their volunteers to go to Vietnam" if Hanoi requests them, which highlights the 7 July Warsaw Pact statement on Vietnam, puts a bloc-wide stamp on separate pledges to the same effect made earlier.

Soviet spokesmen and some of the East Europeans have made similar conditional pledges of volunteers in the past. Moscow probably hopes that a renewal of the pledge at this time will help to generate third-country pressures on the US to cease bombing North Vietnam. Moreover, the unified position adopted by the Warsaw Pact states serves to point up their solidarity on Vietnam in contrast to the go-it-alone policy of the Chinese.

The occasion has again demonstrated the value of the Warsaw Pact to Moscow as a forum for eliciting bloc backing for important Soviet positions. Well-hedged offers of volunteers contain little hazard and at the same time dramatize bloc support for the Vietnamese Communists.

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[\* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.]

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Egypt: [Disenchantment with the Nasir regime seems to be growing among important elements of the Egyptian population.]

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[ ] there are few Egyptians who have not had a relative or friend killed in Yemen, arrested for suspected political activity, or arbitrarily treated in the recent campaign against land-owners evading the reform laws. Last week the regime ousted several hundred village chiefs, who usually come from influential local families.]

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[ ] Prime Minister Zakariya Muhyi al-Din is at odds with Ali Sabri, whom Nasir removed from the premiership last fall. Sabri is using his present position as head of the state-sponsored Arab Socialist Union to advocate further socialization. These efforts conflict with Muhyi al-Din's reform program stressing austerity and efficiency. Nasir continues to subordinate reforms to political considerations.]

[There is still no information that the dissatisfaction is being translated into new, active antiregime moves. Nevertheless, last summer the Muslim Brotherhood plotting reached a fairly advanced stage before the regime uncovered it and suppressed it.]

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Congo (Brazzaville): Government leaders are maintaining tenuous control in Brazzaville following last week's abortive army revolt.

President Massamba-Debat and Prime Minister Noumazalay claim the support of army and gendarmerie leaders and have refused to accede to most of the demands made by dissident army elements.

They are said to have admitted publicly that only Cuban support kept them in power. There are approximately 200 to 300 Cubans in the country, some 50 of whom form the presidential bodyguard.

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Order has been generally restored, [but some individuals are taking advantage of the situation to settle old tribal and personal quarrels, resulting in several deaths.]

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NOTES

Communist China: Severe flooding in southern China, particularly Kwangtung Province, is cutting down the early rice crop. The extent of the damage is not yet known, but Kwangtung Province normally accounts for about 35 percent of the early rice crop, or about five percent of China's total grain harvest in recent years. With the wheat areas of northern China suffering from drought, the over-all outlook is poor unless growing conditions are much better than average in the last half of the year.

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Bolivia: With approximately 80 percent of the vote counted, Rene Barrientos is assured the presidency and his Bolivian Revolutionary Front 82 of the 102 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 18 of 27 in the Senate. In the important La Paz department, however, a real battle, which could lead to violence, is developing between the Christian Democratic Community (CDC) and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement. In each department, the party receiving the second highest number of votes is automatically awarded one-fifth of the deputy seats and one third of the senate seats for that department. Should the CDC--which ran its three top candidates in the La Paz department--lose its current lead there, it may not accept the decision.

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## NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 7 July 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimates:

NIE 14.3-66, "North Vietnamese Military Potential for Fighting in South Vietnam"

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NIE 31/32-66, "The Foreign Policies of India and Pakistan"

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NIE 60-1-66, "The Radical West African States"

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The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

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The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

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The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U. S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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